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STAT

EXCERPTSBy Wendy Law-Yone
Seagrave

They all have something in common with the Count of Monte Cristo and the Birdman of Alcatraz. They are the prisoners of agenda: the movers, shakers and decision makers. Sentenced to a full calendar, they share a recurrent pipedream: to get away from it all.

Escape is a little like Shangri-la: the best part is thinking about getting there. Escape mechanisms have changed somewhat since Sir Walter Raleigh dreamed of other worlds and read *The Faerie Queen* underneath his walnut tree. Our leaders turn instead to doodling and bending paper clips, composing creative memos, making umpteen phone calls or, in a rare spirit of adventure, gathering wild roots in the country. Enter the ersatz escape.

Having withdrawn into the private domain, former CIA chief William Colby presumably has little need for escape these days. But, as one of his former aides puts it, "I'm sure he has a vivid memory." Colby, however, sounds quite happy to report that he has "very normal avocations" — writing a book, and often bicycling with his family along the C&O canal.

His successor, George Bush, escapes into the immediate past: the former envoy to the People's Republic of China continues to read books on China for relaxation.

~~If you ask former Nixon aide, John Dean,~~